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Application No. 09/701,195  
Docket No. 1005-AGGUS3

Examiner ROY M. PUNNOOSE  
Art Unit 2877

REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

In response to the Official Action mailed on March 15, 2002, please amend the above-referenced patent application as follows.

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In the Claims

Please cancel Claims 34 and 35 and add the following new claims.

42.(New) A system for generating, maintaining, and retrieving characterizing information about gemstones comprising:

electronic camera means for viewing a gemstone and for generating electronic signals corresponding to a physical characteristic of the gemstone;

electronic data processor means operatively connected to said electronic camera for receiving the electronic signals, for controlling the operation of said electronic camera to generate electronic signals corresponding to at least two different physical characteristics of the gemstone, and for analyzing the electronic signals to provide data files containing information identifying said at least two different physical characteristics of the gemstone;

data storage means operatively connected to said electronic data processor means for storing a database of gemstone identifying information for a plurality of known gemstones; and

means for comparing the identifying information of the viewed gemstone provided by said electronic data processor with the identifying information of a known gemstone retrieved from said data storage device so that the gemstone viewed by the electronic camera means can be accurately identified from said database of gemstone identifying information.

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